



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
OF MONTEREY BAY
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

Service To Children, For Love of The Christ Child





Hello Anne,

“The coming year, Oh my God, I give to Thee. I welcome all it holds and I am glad, Oh glad, to think that Thou holdest the future in Thy hand.” Mary Virginia Merrick, Servant of God and Christ Child Society Founder

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas season with family and friends.

December put us in the Christmas spirit beginning with our literacy program at the Martin Luther King School in Salinas, where Gail Gourley did an amazing job reading *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats to the kids not only in English, but also in Spanish! Ann Huston and Kathy Gibbs helped the kids with their wintery crafts making their very own paper snowsuits and play-doh snowballs and snowflakes. As with every lesson, the children were also given their own copy of the book, to bring home. The teachers, kids and parents were most appreciative of our presence in the classroom. Here's what MLK staff have to say:

- "It was wonderful to see you all again; the children so enjoyed your visit. They loved the story and the activity you provided. Thank you for choosing our classroom." *Evangelina Camacho, Associate Teacher*
- "Thank you for your dedication, and we appreciate your kindness. The children were happy to have you in the classroom. Parents are thankful to receive this wonderful book. I valued your visit tremendously!" *Rosa Garcia, Associate Teacher*
- "I appreciate so much your involvement and the quality of your interactions with our children, families and staff. Our children and families were very happy to take home their own book!" *Rosie Sanchez, Child Development Services Coordinator, Early Learning*

The joys of Christmas and our love of children came together with our provision of gift bags with toys specifically requested by the Monterey County Office of Education Early Start Program to meet the needs of the children. A big thank you to member Jennifer Bodner for working with the program to make this happen for the second year in a row. Jennifer brought our gift bags to the program's Christmas party on December 15 and reported that "the teachers, therapists and parents were all very grateful for the generous donations of toys and the opportunity to build community with other families." See pictures of our gift bags and of the fun party below.

January is a month of new beginnings and 2024 is without exception. We are continuing to make strides in the community. The exciting news is organizations and people are becoming more aware of our presence and are reaching out asking for help. This month, we are assessing our current needs and revisiting our strategic plan. We want to continue to move our organization forward. Look out for a survey in the coming weeks which will be sent to members confirming your interests and needs for the new year.

Finally, we look forward to our New Members Welcome Reception later this month, which is becoming an annual event. We really want to get to know our new members and provide an opportunity for them to meet other members and ask questions of our leaders. But this is also a great opportunity to bring a friend who might be a prospective member to get to know us, so think about it and join us with a friend! Details about the event are below. . .

With gratitude,

Sarah Hills, President





New Members Welcome Reception January 21

New Members Welcome Reception

Sunday, January 21
from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
at past president Anne
Kelley's house in Carmel

We invite anyone who has joined Christ Child in the last year and anyone who would like to bring a friend who might be interested in Christ Child to join us for a casual reception with beverages and hors d'oeuvres. New and prospective members will learn about our programs from our leadership and can also and get to know one another. Spouses and significant others are welcome and games will be on the TV . . .



**Let Anne know if you
are coming and how
many by January 17**

Volunteering and Social Opportunities

Yarns & Stitches
Wednesdays January 17
and 31
10:30-noon

As usual, we meet in St.

Angela's Small Hall in Pacific Grove.

Contact Joan with any questions



Pack or Deliver Baby Bundles

We pack and deliver bundles at the end of the month.

To help, contact Rita

Walking Group

Saturday, January 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Our Walking Group participation suffered a bit in the last half of 2023, so we want our first walk of 2024 to be well attended by past and new walkers--and an opportunity to discuss how we should move forward in 2024.



Join us at the parking lot
at Palo Corona and walk
the lower "loop" there with
old and new friends.

Let Nanci know you're
coming

Literacy Craftorama

Wednesday January 24,
at 5:30 p.m.
St. Angela's Small Hall

We will be preparing the
crafts for our February
and March lessons at this
month's Craftorama. Many
hands make light work--
join us!



Let Ann know you're
coming . . .

Our Annual "Food Glorious Food" Book Club Event
Tuesday, January 23 at 6 p.m.
at the home of VP Kathy Gibbs in Pasadera



Bring a dish, 15 copies of the recipe you made it from and a cookbook to exchange. Enjoy your fellow Christ Child members' cooking, take away multiple new recipes and exchange your cookbook for another member's favorite. We will also vote on books and brainstorm venues for the next three months!

RSVP to Linda by Friday January
19

Marilyn Morgadinho (1/6)
Merritt Bruce (1/6)
Zanie Bactud (1/7)
Vicki Hart (1/10)
Andrea Peltier (1/11)
Stacey Roberts (1/11)



Ursula Soares (1/13)

Linda Weber (1/17)

Terri Kelley (1/17)

Jennifer Bodner (1/20)

Caroline Mitchel (1/22)

Mary Nikssarian (1/23)

Sheri Abramonte (1/28)

Kathy Gibbs (1/31)



2024 dues are "due" no later than January 31. The amount for an individual is \$50 and for a couple is \$80. \$40 of each person's dues is paid to the National Christ Child Society to support our "parent" organization, which in turn benefits our chapter

with grants, education and assistance. The remainder supports our limited administrative costs, including the roster, our e-newsletter subscription and the website.

CLICK HERE and scroll down to the bottom of the Donations page to pay your dues online--or mail them to the "Treasurer" at the P.O.Box set out below.



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